

The *Circumpolar Health Atlas* was a treat to review, and I would recommend it highly for the circumpolar enthusiast as well as any interested citizen.

REFERENCE

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Colleen M. Davison
Department of Community Health and Epidemiology
Queen's University
62 Fifth Field Company Lane
Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6, Canada
davisonc@queensu.ca

THE KOCH FAMILY PAPERS. PART 1: NEW INSIGHTS INTO THE LIFE, WORK AND ASPIRATIONS OF GREENLAND GEO-EXPLORER LAUGE KOCH (1892–1964). By PETER R. DAWES. Copenhagen: GEUS Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland, 2012. ISBN 978-87-7871-335-3. 220 p., maps, b&w and colour illus., references, sources and notes. Softbound. DKK150.

Svend Lauge Koch (1892–1964) was a Danish explorer and natural scientist recognized for organizing and leading many scientific expeditions to Greenland between 1920 and 1959. He is best known for his contributions to the cartography and geology of North-West, North, and East Greenland, but also for the controversies that swirled around him throughout his career, particularly in his homeland of Denmark. Much of what is written about Koch is in Danish, including the only complete biography (Odsbjerg, 1992). Koch's materials are housed in Danish institutions, mainly the National Archives (*Rigsarkivet*), but a treasure trove of material remains with the family. The author, Peter R. Dawes, has had access to some, but not all, of the collections held by Koch's children. He refers to the materials that he has collated as “the Koch family papers,” and they include diverse papers, field notebooks, graphic material, newspaper and magazine clippings, and sound recordings. This book is Part 1 of a planned trilogy; it summarizes the documents and places them in their historical context from the time of Koch's first trip to Greenland in 1913 until his death. Part 2 will delve into the geological mapping of North Greenland, while Part 3 will cover the activities surrounding lead-zinc mining at Mestersvig from 1948 to 1955.

Peter R. Dawes was born in 1940 in Nottinghamshire, United Kingdom, and educated at the University of Exeter, where he received his PhD in geology in 1965. He joined the Geological Survey of Greenland (now part of the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland) in 1966 as a staff scientist and spent his career with this organization in Copenhagen, becoming fluent in Danish and well versed in

Greenlandic. Dawes has participated in 26 summer expeditions to Greenland, some of which followed closely in the footsteps of Lauge Koch. Dawes has a longstanding interest in polar exploration, as well as a firsthand knowledge of what it takes to do geology in remote, northern Greenland. He has published numerous scholarly articles on Arctic history, including a portrait of Lauge Koch (Dawes, 1991), but this is his first book. Dawes presents *The Koch Family Papers, Part 1* as a chronological narrative of Koch's life and does not intend the book as a biography. That's good, because—as Dawes is an unabashed fan of Lauge Koch—I find that the treatment is very one-sided. Dawes' goal is simply to present Koch's materials in a historical context.

What new insights into Koch's life do the family papers illuminate? Documents in the collection may help unravel the sequence of events leading to the deaths of the Greenlandic hunter Hendrik Olsen and the Swedish botanist Thorild Wulff on the Second Thule Expedition led by Knud Rasmussen, the famous polar anthropologist. Olsen disappeared on a hunting trip in July 1917, while Wulff, who was physically unable to continue, died one month later after a starving Koch and two Inuit companions had abandoned him. The two men were never found, and their deaths have been shrouded in mystery. In addition, the family papers clarify Koch's early ambitions to map northern Greenland and be the first Dane to visit Kap Morris Jesup, along with his recognition that doing so would solidify Denmark's claim to Greenland. Koch's subsequent scientific work played a pivotal role in the 1933 decision of the International Court of the Hague to award sovereignty over all of Greenland to Denmark, and not Norway. But the court case probably drove him toward being more politically motivated than previously assumed. At about the same time as he enjoyed success in government circles, Koch was accused of academic fraud by a group of 11 scientists from the Danish academic community, and he sued them for slander. The lawsuit, which Koch referred to as “the Process,” lasted from 1936 to 1938, but affected his entire career. The family papers contain correspondence with prominent international scientists that provide additional information bearing on the contentious career of Lauge Koch.

The book is a low-end, softbound publication of the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland. Six chapters cover an obligatory introduction, a review of the Koch archives, a broad overview of the contents of the family papers, Koch's role in helping Denmark gain sovereignty over Greenland, a chronological description of the collection, and the author's reflections, based on the family papers, on Koch's contributions. Chapter 5, the nuts and bolts of the book, describes the contents of the papers in 35 sections that span Koch's life from his student days, when he completed his first field season in 1913, to the end of his life. The reference list is comprehensive and contains a complete bibliography of Koch's publications. All the text is segregated up front, while the supplemental notes, illustrations, maps, and tables are tacked on to the end,

which makes for an undue amount of page turning. The book lacks an index, and worse, it lacks a comprehensive list of the items in the family archive, both of which would be a boon to researchers. One glaring conundrum of the “Papers” is whether researchers will ever have access to the family material after now being introduced to it.

The Koch Family Papers, Part 1 will appeal to connoisseurs of Arctic exploration. The book is essential to researchers on the history of polar science and is a valuable compilation and commentary on the new source material in English. When the planned three-part series is complete, it will be the closest thing to a biography of Lauge Koch available in English. Given the low production quality of the volume, its relatively high price, and its appeal to a niche market, the general reader may want to wait until Dawes produces a planned popular book re-examining the deaths of two men on the Second Thule Expedition. A balanced biography of Lauge Koch in English remains to be written.

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Jane A. Gilotti
Department of Geoscience
121 Trowbridge Hall
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa 52242, USA
jane-gilotti@uiowa.edu

EASTERN SÁMI ATLAS. By TERO MUSTONEN and KAISU MUSTONEN. Vaasa, Finland: Snowchange Cooperative, 2011. ISBN 978-952-5944-00-6. 331 p., maps, colour and b&w illus., references. Available from tero.mustonen@snowchange.org. Hardbound. €60 + shipping.

“To be without history,” writes Pauliina Feodoroff, in her moving preface to the *Eastern Sámi Atlas*, “is a state of being where there is no peace of mind” (p. 9). She is of the second generation of Skolt Sámi people who were relocated to the Finnish side of the border with the then Soviet Union at the end of the Second World War, following the Soviet annexation of the region of Petsamo, which had afforded Finland's only direct access to the ice-free Barents Sea. Not until after the collapse of the Soviet Union were the borders opened, so that a now ageing generation could once again see the homelands of their youth, if only through the windows of a tourist bus. For many, including Pauliina's grandmother Anni, it was a distressing experience. The places they remembered so fondly had been wrecked. There would never be any possibility of return.

This extraordinary volume—at once atlas, scrapbook, compendium, and collage—is eloquent testimony to the jarring juxtapositions of hope and despair, to the stirrings of life amidst a fabric of utter ruination, that pervade the entire region of what is conventionally known as the Kola Peninsula, extending east from the present Russo-Finnish borderlands and surrounded to the north by the Barents Sea and to the south by the White Sea. Once populated throughout by Sámi people—Skolt Sámi, Kildin Sámi, Ter Sámi, and Akkala Sámi, who lived by hunting and fishing and from small herds of reindeer—and later by Komi people, who arrived in the 1880s with much larger herds from the Pechora region in the east, it has since been hollowed out by massive militarization, the enforced closure of settlements, large-scale mineral extraction, and urban development. Today, most of the remaining people of Sámi descent, a tiny minority in what was once their homeland, live in soulless concrete blocks in the town of Lovozero, itself dwarfed and marginalized by the sprawling port city of Murmansk with its 300 000 inhabitants, only 80 miles distant, but which the people of Lovozero can no longer reach even by a direct bus service.

This book is the result of a collaboration between a Finnish non-governmental organization, the Snowchange Co-operative, and the Sami Council, and is the result of a three-year project to document the land use of the eastern Sámi people in the face of the imminent possibility that Barrick Gold, the largest gold and platinum mining company in the world, would commence open-pit mining at the heart of the Kola Peninsula, with potentially devastating environmental impacts. The book includes chapters compiled by the editors, Tero and Kaisu Mustonen, on places, lifeways and histories, knowledge, environment, and weather, along with four short pieces by guest authors: Paul Fryer on the Komi, Leif Rantala on the Akkala Sámi, Sergey Zavalko on the demography of the Kola Sámi, and a marvelously insightful letter from Lovozero by anthropologist Yulian Konstantinov. We learn how the Komi, once convinced of their cultural superiority over the Sámi, now find themselves beleaguered since they cannot benefit from the cross-border support that the Sámi receive from well-funded and internationally networked Nordic Sámi organizations. We learn how the handful of Akkala Sámi contrive to keep their identity alive despite the death, in 2003, of the last remaining speaker of their distinctive language. We learn of the appalling gap in life expectancy, of some 20 years, between Sámi of the Kola Peninsula and Russians in general. And we get a glimpse of the discord that still exists between Sámi activists, predominantly well-educated and cosmopolitan, with comfortable homes and jobs, and local people eking out a living in dilapidated villages and tundra camps, with social services crumbling around them. It appears that all the international attention focused on the Sámi as an indigenous minority, which has provided a platform for activists and an excuse for business trips abroad, has brought little tangible benefit to local people. For the latter, ethnicity may not be high on the agenda,